
Notice of Completion of Inventory of Native American Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects from Four Sites in Tuolumne County, California, in the Possession of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003(d), of the completion of the inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects from four sites in Tuolumne County, California, in the possession of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Representatives of culturally affiliated Indian tribes are advised that the human remains and associated funerary objects from Tuolumne County will be retained by the Department at its headquarters facility until November 12, 1992, after which they may be repatriated to culturally affiliated groups.

The detailed inventory and assessment of the human remains and associated funerary objects from these four Tuolumne County sites has been made by the California Department of Parks and Recreation curatorial and archeological staff, contract specialists in physical anthropology and prehistoric archeology, and representatives of the Tuolumne Band of Me-wuk Indians and the Central Sierra Me-Wuk Cultural and Historic Preservation Committee.

Three of the collections [from CA-TUO-331, CA-TUO-342, and CA-TUO-S497 (the Lucas Gulch site)] were surface-collected in 1970 prior to flooding of the Don Pedro reservoir. The collection from CA-TUO-342 contains one human tooth which is probably late prehistoric or protohistoric, based on a desert side-notched point and olivella disc beads found during the survey. The collection from CA-TUO-331, a small village site with many bedrock mortar pits, and the collection from CA-TUO-S497 each contain one human bone fragment which are presumed to be late prehistoric or historic based on the degree of their preservation. No funerary objects have been identified from these surface-collections.

The fourth collection was excavated in 1968 from CA-TUO-395 (the Columbus Junior College site). The collection includes one cremation, two burials, and 60,050 funerary objects, most of which are fire-exposed beads. The burials date from about 1860.

Two of the collections, CA-TUO-342 and CA-TUO-395, are clearly identifiable as being affiliated with the historic Central Sierra Miwok people, as they come from known historic or late prehistoric village sites and have artifacts which are consistent with this attribution. The two other collections, from CA-TUO-331 and CA-TUO-S497, can reasonably be believed to be affiliated with the historic Central Sierra Miwok people as they were collected from an area believed by archeologists to be inhabited by the Central Sierra Miwok since about AD 1400, with no contradictory evidence of the presence of another group.

This notice has been sent to officials of the Tuolumne Band of the Me-wuk and the Central Sierra Me-wuk Cultural and Historic Preservation Committee. Representatives of any other Indian group which believes itself to be culturally affiliated with the human remains and associated funerary objects from these four Tuolumne County collections should get in touch with Pauline Grenbeaux Spear, Committee on Repatriation, P.O. 942896, Sacramento CA 94296-0001, (916) 324-6800 before November 12, 1992.

Dated: October 6, 1992

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[FR Doc 92-24760 Filed 10-9-92; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-70-M